UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/45/PV.74
6 May 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 6 May 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de MARCO (Malta)

- Cyclone in Bangladesh

- Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: report of the Fifth Committee [134] (continued)

- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [17] (continued)

  (h) Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee: Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

- Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991: Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) [118] (continued)

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- Personnel questions [126] (continued)

  (c) Other personnel questions: report of the Fifth Committee

- Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) [156]

- (a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission: Report of the Fifth Committee

- Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group [132] (continued)

- Development and international economic cooperation [79] (continued)

  (b) Trade and development

- Special economic and disaster relief assistance [86] (continued)

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

  (b) Draft resolution

- Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [117] (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

CYCLONE IN BANGLADESH

The PRESIDENT: Before turning to the first item on our agenda for this morning, may I on behalf of all the members of the Assembly extend to the Government and the people of Bangladesh, recently struck by a devastating cyclone, our deepest sympathy at this major natural disaster that has caused tragic loss of life and extensive material damage.

May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any request for help.

I now call on the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. AHMED (Bangladesh): I thank you, Sir, for giving my delegation this opportunity to make a statement at the beginning of today's meeting. We are deeply touched by your words of sympathy and by the sympathy that has been expressed by other members of the Assembly and other delegations.

The cyclone that hit Bangladesh was of catastrophic proportions. We are still trying to collect full information about the damage caused by this most unfortunate and tragic natural calamity. However, from the preliminary reports we have at our disposal it is evident that the damage wrought in this catastrophe has been both colossal and extensive. The cyclone has caused unprecedented human suffering and loss of life and property. Our Government has mobilized all its resources, manpower and administrative apparatus to mitigate the consequences of the disaster, but its magnitude is too great for Bangladesh to cope with the job by itself.

Our Prime Minister, Mrs. Khaleda Zia, has already made an appeal to the international community to come to our help. In the meantime there has been a generous response from many countries, and we are very grateful to all those countries that have come forward so promptly. Many more are making inquiries

(Mr. Ahmed, Bangladesh)

about the nature of the support and the help we need. Some other countries, donor agencies and international organizations are making their own evaluation of the extent of the damage and the nature of the support we need.

Our Finance Minister was here yesterday; he called on the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. The Secretary-General was kind enough on behalf of the United Nations to assure him of all possible help and to mobilize the entire United Nations machinery and system to come to our help. Already, a delegation from the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator is in Dhaka, the capital of our country, to make an assessment. We are overwhelmed by the support and understanding of the Secretary-General and we are sure that other United Nations agencies also will come to our assistance. The United Nations and other organizations have tendered support in the past, and we are very confident that this unprecedented disaster will bring support in greater measure this time because of the larger proportions of the disaster.

Mr. President, the solidarity you expressed on your own behalf and on behalf of the members here present is a source of great strength and support to us. We deeply appreciate it. We are overwhelmed by your kind words and sympathy. I take this opportunity to convey to you, on behalf of the Government and the suffering people of Bangladesh, our deep gratitude.

In that connection, we are submitting a draft resolution on emergency assistance to Bangladesh. We are confident that it will meet with the unanimous approval of the General Assembly.

We are grateful for and overwhelmed by the Assembly's support and understanding.

AGENDA ITEMS 134 (continued), 17 (continued), 118 (continued), 126 (continued), 156

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/903); AMENDMENT (A/45/L.47)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

(h) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/45/866/Add.1)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/45/900/Add.1)

PERSONNEL QUESTIONS

(c) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/45/898/Add.1)

FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991)

(a) UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVER MISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/1006)

The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Shamel Elsayed Nasser of Egypt, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. NASSER (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: As Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee I have the honour, Sir, to appear before the General Assembly under your presidency to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee on the agenda items listed for today's meeting.

With your permission I shall introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee following the order of agenda items as they appear in today's Journal. Before I do so, please permit me to express my appreciation to you, Sir, for the efficient manner in which the General Assembly has already acted under your presidency on the reports of the Fifth Committee on other items allocated to it at the forty-fifth session. It will be recalled that the reports of the

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

Fifth Committee on those items contained 22 draft resolutions and 12 draft decisions, all of which the Committee was able to adopt without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 134, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", is contained in document A/43/903 of 21 December 1990. The Committee had concluded work on this item before the suspension of the forty-fifth session, although time did not permit its report to be processed for consideration in plenary meeting.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it four reports of the Secretary-General, on review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/45/582), support account for peace-keeping operations (A/45/493), the feasibility and cost effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1) and use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502). The Committee also had before it a report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/45/801), dealing with the matters covered in the four reports.

As stated in paragraph 2 of the report of the Fifth Committee, this agenda item was considered by the Committee at its 40th to 43rd and 52nd meetings, on 5, 7, 10, 11 and 21 December 1990. In addition, several informal meetings of the Committee were devoted to it.

I should now like to draw the Assembly's attention to section II of the Committee's report, entitled "Consideration of Proposals".

As stated in paragraph 4 therein, at the 52nd meeting of the Committee, the representative of Ireland submitted, on behalf of itself and 25 other sponsor countries, a draft resolution on Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Operations (contained in document A/C.5/45/L.25). A procedural motion proposed at the same meeting to defer action on the draft resolution was rejected by 54 votes to 7, with 16 abstentions.

Moreover, the proposal of an amendment to the draft resolution, submitted at the same meeting, was rejected by 52 votes to 3, with 21 abstentions.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

The draft resolution was adopted by 82 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions, at the same meeting. Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution, the text of which is contained in paragraph 8 of the report.

As delegates will have noticed, the draft resolution which is before the Assembly contains several preambular and operative paragraphs. The first three preambular paragraphs recall the three previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject, two in 1989 and one in 1990. These are resolution 44/192 of 21 December 1989, resolution 44/49 of 8 December 1989 and resolution 45/75 of 11 December 1990.

The next preambular paragraph mentions the relevant documentation considered by the Committee. In addition, the five remaining preambular paragraphs set out the considerations and the concerns motivating the action taken by the Committee. Among these are: the significant increase in United Nations peace-keeping activities and the resulting increased demands on the human, material and financial resources of the Organization and Member States; the extremely difficult financial situation of some peace-keeping operations and the heavy burden on troop-contributing States; the need to ensure a sound financial and administrative basis for peace-keeping operations; and the need to provide peace-keeping operations with the necessary financial resources, especially those essential for the start-up of such operations.

The draft resolution which is before the delegates has 14 operative paragraphs. I should like to highlight briefly some of these.

In paragraph 1 the General Assembly would continue to urge all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed

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contributions to peace-keeping operations in full and on time, in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 concern the efficient and co-ordinated administration of peace-keeping operations, as well as the broadening of the participation of countries in United Nations peace-keeping operations. Paragraph 5 takes note of the observations made by the Secretary-General and the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

In paragraph 6 the Assembly would decide that, as an interim measure, the standard rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States shall be increased by 4 per cent beginning on 1 July 1991.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 deal with the question of voluntary contributions. In paragraph 7 the Assembly would invite States contributing personnel, equipment and services that can afford to do so to consider providing them, in whole or in part, on a voluntary basis. In paragraph 8 it would invite States to make voluntary contributions to United Nations peace-keeping operations both in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/192 A.

Paragraphs 9 and 10, respectively, deal with the use and operation of the support account for peace-keeping operations and the proposals of the Secretary-General to establish a reserve stock of commonly used equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping operations.

In paragraph 11 the Assembly would endorse the proposals made by the Secretary-General on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping

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operations, taking into account the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Standard administrative procedures to govern the provision of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations would be called for in paragraph 12.

Lastly, in paragraph 13 the Secretary-General would be called upon to report to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on the presentation of data by troop-contributing States on the rates of reimbursement, the support account for peace-keeping operations, the reserve stock of commonly used equipment and supply items and the use of civilians in peace-keeping operations. The Assembly would also decide, in paragraph 14, to include the subject in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session.

I now call the attention of delegates to document A/45/866/Add.1, which contains the report of the Fifth Committee on item 17 (h) dealing with the appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Leonid E. Bidny as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term of office beginning on the date of adoption of the decision by the General Assembly and ending on 31 December 1991.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

With regard to agenda item 126 (c), "Other personnel questions", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/45/898/Add.1. The draft resolution in paragraph 6 of that report was adopted by the Committee without a vote. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of this draft resolution.

Under agenda item 118, "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991", the Fifth Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials - members of the Joint Inspection Unit. The Fifth Committee's report appears in document A/45/900/Add.1. As stated in paragraph 4 of this report, the Committee decided without objection to recommend to the General Assembly that it defer to the forty-sixth session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on this matter. The recommendation of the Committee is contained in paragraph 5 of the report.

Under agenda item 156, "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)", the Fifth Committee, at its 53rd to 56th meetings, from 29 April to 2 May 1991, considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Committee's report on this matter is before the Assembly in document A/45/1006. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of its report. The Committee's decision on this draft resolution was reached without a vote.

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

Finally, I turn to agenda item 132, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group". I wish to inform the Assembly that the Fifth Committee considered this item at its 53rd to 56th meetings, from 29 April to 2 May 1991. It agreed that work on this matter should be continued by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and that the Fifth Committee itself should continue informal consultations with a view to reaching a decision.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, again in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

(The President)

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed with the voting in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee, except in those cases where delegations have already notified the Secretariat that they wish to proceed otherwise.

The Assembly will first consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/903) on agenda item 134, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 8 of that report. In this connection, the Assembly has before it an amendment to the draft resolution. That amendment is contained in document A/45/L.47.

I now call on the representative of Ireland, who wishes to introduce the amendment.

Mr. CONMY (Ireland): I have the honour to inform the General Assembly that, following further consultations, agreement has been reached to facilitate the adoption of the draft resolution on this agenda item without a vote.

In accordance with that agreement, I have the honour to propose the inclusion in the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of document A/45/903 of a new operative paragraph as contained in document A/45/L.47.

I should like to acknowledge the constructive approach and goodwill of delegations that have led to this welcome outcome. Consensus is important to the work of the General Assembly, and in particular to the work of the Fifth Committee. This is especially the case when it comes to peace-keeping activities of the Organization.

(Mr. Conmy, Ireland)

In accordance with the agreement reached, I propose that the amendment in document A/45/L.47 be adopted without a vote and that the draft resolution in paragraph 8 of document A/45/903, as amended, also be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will first take a decision on the amendment in document A/45/L.47 to the draft resolution in paragraph 8 of document A/45/903. This amendment would become operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt that amendment?

The amendment was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 8 of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/903), as a whole, as amended, that is, with a new operative paragraph 14; the old operative paragraph 14 will become paragraph 15.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution as a whole as amended?

The draft resolution, as a whole, as amended, was adopted (resolution 45/258).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 134.

I now invite members to turn their attention to part II of the report of the Fifth Committee, on sub-item (h) of agenda item 17, entitled "Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee" (A/45/866/Add.1).

In paragraph 4 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Leonid Bidny as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a term of office beginning on 3 May 1991 and ending on 31 December of the same year.

May I take it that the General Assembly appoints this person?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 17.

We turn now to part II of the report (A/45/900/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee, on agenda item 118, "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991".

In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly defer to the forty-sixth session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for

(The President)

officials other than Secretariat officials - members of the Joint Inspection Unit.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts this recommendation?

The recommendation was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded that stage of our consideration of agenda item 118.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee which pertains to sub-item (c) of agenda item 126, "Other personnel questions" (A/45/898/Add.1).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution entitled "Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/259).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 126.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/45/1006) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (a) of agenda item 156, entitled "United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission" without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/260).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 156.

AGENDA ITEM 132 (continued)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP

The PRESIDENT: The Rapporteur has informed the Assembly that the Fifth Committee has not concluded its work on this item.

The Assembly will therefore consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 132 at a later date, to be announced.

AGENDA ITEM 79 (continued)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

(b) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider, under sub-item (b) of agenda item 79, the question of the change in the date and venue of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

In this connection, a draft resolution has been issued as document A/45/L.46.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/45/L.46?

Draft resolution A/45/L.46 was adopted (resolution 45/261).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 79.

AGENDA ITEM 86 (continued)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/1002)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/45/L.45)

The PRESIDENT: Representatives will recall that the General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 45/257, requested the Secretary-General to consult the Government of Haiti as soon as possible concerning appropriate initiatives for the launching of a special programme of emergency assistance to Haiti and to inform the Assembly of the outcome of such consultations.

The report of the Secretary-General on special emergency assistance to Haiti has been circulated in document A/45/1002. I am informed that a draft resolution will be submitted and circulated shortly for consideration at an early date.

Representatives will also recall that at our 73rd plenary meeting, held on Monday, 29 April, I informed the Assembly that the representatives of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua had advised me of their intention to submit a draft resolution regarding emergency assistance to Costa Rica and Panama, and that the aforementioned draft resolution had been issued as document A/45/L.45.

I should also like to inform members that a draft resolution on emergency assistance to Bangladesh has now been submitted and will be circulated as document A/45/L.48.

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/45/L.45, entitled "Emergency assistance to Costa Rica and Panama".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/45/L.45?

Draft resolution A/45/L.45 was adopted (resolution 45/262).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 86.

AGENDA ITEM 117 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDENT: In connection with the last item on our agenda for this morning, I very much regret having to inform the Assembly that in spite of the major effort made by all concerned under the committed guidance of our Vice-President, Ambassador Thompson of Fiji, members were unable to conclude their work on the question of the restructuring and revitalizing of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

Consultations are still proceeding. I have been following this matter closely and, from reports I have received, I believe that we may be very close to agreement. I should therefore like to appeal to all concerned to continue their sustained efforts and cooperation to carry this exercise to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. Consideration of this matter is therefore postponed to an early date to be announced.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.